

edge;

two <sup>and projecting downwards beyond said lower surface of said deck</sup> [downwardly projecting] parallel load supporting rails connected to said substantially rectangular deck; said rails proximate to each of said first two

*and extends substantially continuously with each side*  
opposing sides of said substantially rectangular deck, said rails extending a portion of the width of the deck;

a downwardly projecting central support connected to said deck, and located intermediate of said two downwardly projecting rails; and *and also from said lower surface* said central support by spaced from said rails 5.0 cm to 10 cm

a clearance space below the rectangular deck between the second two

opposing sides, said clearance space unobstructed between the rails except for the central support.

*Sub C1*  
*AD*  
3. (Amended) The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said [deck has two lateral sides which are approximately parallel and said] downwardly projecting rails extend substantially [a] the width of the deck in a direction parallel with said first two lateral sides.

4. (Amended) The mini-pallet of claim 3 wherein said [vertical] central support is less than half the width of the deck in a direction parallel with said two lateral sides.

*Sub C1*  
*AB*  
13. (Amended) The mini-pallet of claim 12 further comprising a fitting bead within the rail pocket configured to contact the downwardly projecting rail of a similarly configured mini-pallet['s downwardly projecting rail] when the similarly configured mini-pallet is nested atop the mini-pallet.

*Sub C1*  
*AD*  
15. (Amended) The mini-pallet of claim 1 wherein said downwardly projecting

ah  
rails further comprise at least two substantially downwardly projecting lateral walls with bridging ribs therebetween, a horizontal base to form a lower surface of said projecting rails, and a vertical support member spaced apart from said lateral walls and extending upwardly from the horizontal base.

Sub c1  
a5  
20. (Amended) The mini-pallet of claim 1 in combination with a carrier, wherein said central support is compatible with a recessed portion in a tongue of [a] the carrier.

Sub c1  
22. (Amended) The mini-pallet of claim 21 wherein said pocket further comprises reinforcing ribs within the pocket connected to an interior surface of said pocket.

ab  
23. (Amended) A first shipping tray comprising:  
a deck having a length and a first pair of opposing lateral sides at ends of said length and a second pair of opposing lateral sides, said first pair of opposing lateral sides being substantially parallel;  
a plurality of downwardly extending load supporting legs proximate with said first pair of opposing lateral sides and extending a depth below said deck;  
a central support extending downwardly from about the center of said deck to the depth of the legs;  
said deck above at least a portion of said plurality of legs and said central support;  
said central support having an exterior surface, and a pocket capable of receiving at least a portion of a similarly configured second shipping tray[ 's]

having a central support when said second shipping tray is nested atop the first shipping tray; and

a clearance space located between the second pair of opposing lateral sides below the deck between the legs, said clearance space being substantially obstructed only by the central support.

24. (Amended) A first tray comprising:

a deck having a center and a perimeter;

two legs proximate to the perimeter of the deck downwardly extending from a bottom surface of said deck to a depth, said legs located on opposing sides of the center of the deck;

two [rail] leg pockets located on a top surface of said deck and compatible to receive at least a portion of legs of a similarly shaped second tray['s legs] when said first and second trays are stored in a nested position;

a central support located near the center of said deck, extending from a bottom surface of said deck to the depth of the legs, and having an outer perimeter portion compatible with a portion of [a tongue of ]a carrier lifting tongue; [and]

a cylindrical pocket located on a top surface of said deck compatible to receive at least a portion of a [similarly shaped tray's] central support of the second tray when said first and second trays are in a nested position; and

clearance space below said deck at the depth of the legs between said legs,

said clearance space unobstructed except for the central support and adapted to receive the carrier lifting tongue.